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Roger L' Estrange



Printed for *Jonathan Edwin* at the three
Roses in *Ludgate Street*. 1676.

THE
CHARTER
OF
THE
LAWYER



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THE
CHARACTER
OF
An Honest Lavvyer.



N honest Lawyer, is the *Life-guard* of our Fortunes; the best *Collateral security* for an *Estate*. A trusty *Pilot* to steer one safe through the dangerous (and oft-times *Inevitable Ocean of Contention*. A true *Priest of Justice*, that neither sacrifices to *Fraud* nor *Corvetousness*, and in this out-does thole of a *higher Function*, that he can make people *Honest*, that are *Sermon Proof*. He is an infallable *Anatomist*, of *Meum* and *Tuum*, that will presently search a Cause to the quick, and find out the *Peccant humour*, the little *lurking-cheat*, though mask'd in never so fair *Pretences*. One that practises *Law*, so as not to forget the *Gospel*, but always wears a *Conscience* as well as a *Gown*; he weighs the *Cause* more than the *Gold*, and if *That* will not bear the *Touch*, in a generous scorn puts back the *Fee*. Though he knows all the *Criticisms* of his *Faculty*, and the nice *Snapperado's* of *Practice*, yet he never uses them, unless in a *Defensive way* to Countermine the plots

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plots of *Knavery*, for he affects not the Devilish skill of *outbasing Right*, nor aims at the *shameful Glory* of making a *Bad Cause good*, but with equal contempt hates the *Wolves Study*, and the *Dogs eloquence*, and disdains to grow great by *Crimes*, or build himself a *Fortune* on the *spoil* of the *Oppressed*, or the ruins of *Widows and Orphans*, he has more *Reverence* for his *Profession* than to *debauch* it to unrighteous purposes, and had rather be *dumb* than suffer his *tongue* to *Pimp* for *Injustice*, or club his *Parts* to *bolster up* a *Cheat* with the *Legerdemain* of *Law-craft*;

He is not fac'd like *Janus*, to take a *Reteyning Fee* from the *Plaintiff*; and afterwards a *Backbanded bribe* from the *Defendant*, nor so *double tongu'd*, that one may purchase his *Pleading*, and the other at the same or a larger price, his *silence*. But when he undertakes a business, he *espouses* it in earnest, and does not *Follow* a Cause but *manage* it. A mollifying letter from the adversaries *Potent Friend*, a noble *Treat*, or the remora of a lusty *Present* to his Wife, have no influence to make him *slacken* his proceedings, for he is so zealous for his *Clients interest*, that you may sooner *Divorce* the *Sun* from the *Ecliptick*, than warp him from his integrity, yet still is his Patron only *usque ad Aras*, (as far as is just) for if once found he finds the business smell *rank*, *St. Marks treasure* or the *Mines of Potosi*, are two *small a Fee* to engage him one *step* further.

As his profession is *Honourable*, so his Education has been *Liberal* and *Ingenious*, far different from that of some *Jilting Pettyfoggers*, and *Purse-milking Law-drivers*, whose breeding, like a *Cuckowes*, is in the *Nest* of another Trade, where they learn *Wrangling* and *Knavery* enough in their own *Causes* to spoil those of other Men, and with *sweetned ingredients* of *mechanick Fraud* compound themselves (though *simple* enough) fit Instruments for any Villany. But his greener years were season'd with *Literature*, and can give better proofs of his *University-learning* than reckoning up the *Colledges*, and boasting his Name in the *Buttery Book*, he understands *Logick* (the method of right reasoning) and *Rhetorick* (the Art of persuasion) is well leen in *History* (the *Free-school of Prudence*) and no Stranger to the *Ethicks* and *Politicks* of the *Ancients*:
He

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he is skill'd in other Languages besides Declaration-Latine, and Norman Gibberish; He read Plato and Tully, before he saw either Littleton or the Statute Book, and grounded, in the Principles of nature and Customs of Nations, came (*lotis manibus*) to the study of our Common Municipal Law; which he found to be *multorum annorum opus*, a task that requires all the Nerves of Industry, and therefore imployd his Time better at the Inns of Court, than in hunting after New fashions, starting fresh Mistresses, haunting the Play-houses, or acquiring the other little Town accomplishments, which render their admirers *sine Men* in the opinion of Fools, but egregious Fops in the judgment of the wise.

In his Studies, he Traffiques not only with the Infantry of Epitomes, Abridgements, and Diminutive Collectors in Decimo sexto, but draws his knowledge from the Original Springs, digesting the whole Body of the Law in a Laborious and regular Method; but especially aims to be well vers't in the Practice of every Court, and rightly to understand the Art of Good pleadings, as knowing them to be most useful to unravel the knotty intrigues of the Cause, and reduce it to an Issue, yet hates to pester the Court with Circuities, Negative Pregnants, Departures and multiplyed Impertinences; he peruses the Year Books and Responsum prudentium, with an heedful and Reverent Eye, delights to tread in the Steps of the Ancient Sages, and thinks 'tis best sailing by known and Experienced Land marks. And therefore uses Presidents not as Refuges of Ignorance, But as the safe-guards of Wisedome, and yet rather than not keep pace with Justice, will Dispense with a Formality, considering that what he does grounded on Reason, if it want a President in past Ages, will be a Laudable one to those to come.

He never goes about with fained Allegations to cast a Mist before the Eyes of Justice, that she may mistake her road, and assign the Child to the wrong Mother; endeavours not to Pack a Jury by his interest in the Undersheriffe, nor to Baulke an evidence with a multitude of sudden insnaring Interrogatories, nor maintains any correspondence with the Knights of Alsatia, or Ram-ally-Pouchers; he can prosecute a suit in Equity without

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seeking to create a *Whirl-pool*; where one *Order* shall beget another, and the poor *Client* be swung round (like a *Cat* before execution) from *Decree* to rehearing, from report to exceptions, and *Vice versa* till his *Fortunes* are *Shipwrack'd*, and himself *drown'd* for want of *white* or *yellow* earth to wade through on; he never studies *delays* to the ruine of a *Family* for the *Lucre* of *Ten Groats*; nor by *drilling Quirks* spins out a *suit* more lasting than *Buff*, depending a whole revolution of *Saturn*, and *Intail'd* on the third and fourth generation, he does not play the *Emperick* with his *Client*, and put him upon the *rack* to make him *Bleed* the more *freely*, casting him into a *swoon* with frights of a *Judgment*, and then *reviv'ing* him again with a *Cordial* write of *errour*, or the dear *Elixer* of an *Injunction*, to keep the *Brangle* alive as long as ever there are any *vital spirits* in the *Pouch*; he can suffer his neighbours to live *quietly* about him without perpetual alarms of *actions* and *Indictments*, or *Conjuring up dormant Titles* to every commodious seat, and making *Land* fall five years *Purchase* meerly for *Lying* within *ten Miles* of *Him*.

He delights to be an *Arbitrator*, not an *Incendiary*, and has *Beati pacifici* oftner in his mouth than *Curra Lex*, he never *wheadies* any into endless suits for *triffl'es*, nor animates them to undo themselves and others for damage *Feasant*, or insignificant *trespasses*, *pedibus ambulando*, but (as *Telephus's* sword was the best cure for the wounds it made) advises people to compose their *assaults* and *slanders* over the same *Ale* that begot them; nor does he in *weightier cases* extort unreasonable *Fees*, for whatever the *foul chapp'd* rabble may suggest, a *Lawyers Profession* is not *Mercenary*; the *Money* given him is onely an *Honorary gratuity*, for his *advice* and *trouble*, or a *grateful acknowledgment*, of our *Obligations* for his *well intended endeavours*, and the old Emblem of the *Brambles* tearing off the *sheeps* fleece that run to it for *shelter* in a *storm*, can have no reflection upon him, whose *Brain* is as *active*, and his *Tongue* as *voluble* for a penniless *Pauper*, as when *Oyl'd* with the *aurum potabile* of a *Dozen Guinnies*.

In a word whilst he *lives*, he is the *delight* of the *Court*, the
Or-

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Ornament of the Bar, the Glory of his Profession, the Patron of Innocency, the Upholder of right, the Scourge of oppression the Terrour of deceit, and the Oracle of his Country, and when death calls him to the Bar of Heaven by a Habeas corpus cum Causis he finds his Judge, his Advocate, nonsuits the Devil, obtains a liberate from all his infirmities, and continues still One of the longrobe in Glory.

FINIS.



The Authors Apology.

THere are a sort of Spider-pated-Animals that can suck Venome out of the most Medicinal Flowers ; mischeivous Drones ! that have not onely left off Laudando Facere, sed etiam Laudare ; so far from doing any thing praise worthy themselves that they cannot endure the deserv'd Encomiums of others ; if any such Vermine should light upon these Innocent sheets and endeavour to turn Panegyrick into a Satyr, by a left-handed comment the Author thinks fit to anticipate their malice, by letting the World truly know, that there lives not a person whose breast is fraught with a greater Veneration for the Profession of the Law than himself, who had the Honour of some mean education therein, and therefore deserves to be Out-law'd by common sense, if he should go about to asperse it. But as he knows no true Gamaliel's will wrong him with such a Groundless suspicion, so he esteems the displeasure of Gripping Cause jobbers, and green bag Dabblers, below his regards ; 'tis their interest to be offended at the Character of An Honest Lawyer for the very same reason, that hard favour'd Ladies hate Handsome Chamber-maids, and may well imitate that Dawbers Policy, who having drawn a most miserable Picture of a Cock, hired a Boy to pelt away all live Ones from coming near, lest people by Comparing should discern the horrid ugliness of his own Handy Work.

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FINIS.

